

Te Ataarangi - Kealaleo

In Aotearoa (New Zealand) --- Te Ataarangi was developed during the late 1970's by Katrina te Heikoko Mataira and Ngoingoi Pewhairangi, as a community-based program of Maori Language learning, in which native speakers of the reo Maori (Maori Language) were trained to be tutors. The teaching methodology used at the elementary level was modeled on the "Silent Way" method developed by Caleb Cattengo for learning a second language that utilized color rods and large amounts of spoken language - in direct contrast to the grammar based, academic approaches to language learning in vogue at the time. It was seen as an approach more likely to be effective with Maori learners. This proved to be the case, and Te Ataarangi became one of the significant programs to address the revitalization of te reo Maori amongst non-speaking Maori adults. Te Ataarangi is also more than just a methodology for the transmission of Maori language. It contains its own vitality and spirit and this is what captures students and increases their love of the language. It embraces everyone who has a desire to speak te reo Maori regardless of race, religion or gender.

Hawai'i's Goals --- A renaissance of interest in Hawaiian Language over the last thirty years has fostered growth in language learning, especially formal training through the university, secondary schools and immersion schools from pre-school through grade 12. Projects and individual efforts for more dispersed community education have been developed, although none have had the continuity or success of the current formal education systems. While format classes have proven successful at developing fluent speakers, less than one percent of the Hawaiian population and little of the general population have been engaged.

Kealaleo has become a system of instruction for those outside of the formal education systems, providing the development of usable language for the family, neighborhood, civic club, church or any other social entity where committed groups of students can be assembled. The goal is to make an intensive learning experience that meshes into the lifestyle and community setting of the target population, and to make the regular use of Hawaiian Language a comfortable reality in those settings.